

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
CEA-01 PA-01 AGRE-00 /094 W
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P R 121055Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 2936

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TAGS PINT BR EGEN SOCI
SUBJECT: FIGUEIREDO ACCEPTANCE SPEECH: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND
FOREIGN POLICY

REF: BRASILIA 2931

1. SUMMARY. IN HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BEFORE THE ARENA CONVENTION
REFTEL), GENERAL FIGUEIREDO GAVE CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS TO

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY, WHILE TOUCHING ON FOREIGN POLICY ONLY
VERY BRIEFLY, MOSTLY IN AN ECONOMIC CONTEXT.
FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS IN THOSE AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. FIGUEIREDO PROMISED (HE USED THE WORD PROMISE ONLY TWICE IN THE
SPEECH) A GREAT EFFORT TO PROMOTE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, ERADICATE

MALNUTRITION, IMPROVE HEALTH STANDARDS AND PUBLIC HYGIENE, AND PROVIDE INCREASED ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR BRAZILIAN WORKERS. HE SAID THAT IN ITS BATTLE FOR BALANCED DEVELOPMENT THE NATION, ALREADY WEARING "THE LAURELS OF AN EMERGING POWER," MUST TURN TOWARD MAN AS ITS CENTRAL CONCERN, AND, IN A LONG PASSAGE, CALLED ON ALL SECTORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT.

3. IN MANAGING THE ECONOMY, FIGUEIREDO SAID, HE WOULD CONTINUE LINES OF DEVELOPMENT WHICH PROMOTE BALANCED ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE REDUCTION OF REGIONAL DISPARITIES. WITH REGARD TO THE ROLE OF THE STATE, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD THE OBLIGATION TO PIONEER INVESTMENTS, WHICH FAIL TO ATTRACT PRIVATE INITIATIVE, BUT THAT THESE INVESTMENTS SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS SOON AS PRIVATE ENTERPRISE WAS READY TO TAKE THEM OVER. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY TO REGULATE THE ACCESS, APPLICATION AND REPATRIATION OF FOREIGN CAPITAL--WHICH WAS INDISPENSABLE TO A COUNTRY UNDERGOING DEVELOPMENT--IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL CAPITAL. IT WAS ITS OBLIGATION, FURTHER MORE, TO RESTRICT THE INFLUENCE OF ECONOMIC POWER, ESPECIALLY THAT OF THE TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATION, THUS SEEKING A BALANCING OF (ECONOMIC) FORCES AND SOCIAL EQUILIBRIUM. ABOVE ALL, IT HAD THE DUTY TO STIMULATE AND GUARANTEE THE PREDOMINANCE OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

4. FIGUEIREDO SAID HE WOULD FACE THE TASK OF MANAGING THE ECONOMY IN A COMPREHENSIVE MANNER. ON THE ONE HAND, HE WOULD PROMOTE WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EQUAL INTEREST ECONOMIC GROWTH, EXPANDED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE ELEVATION OF THE COUNTRY'S STANDARD OF LIVING, TOGETHER WITH A BETTER INCOME DISTRIBUTION; ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WOULD SEEK TO COMBAT INFLATION, ACCEPTING GROWTH RATES WITHIN THE REACH OF THE COUNTRY'S POSSIBILITIES AND CONDITIONED TO THE REAL LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

5. FIGUEIREDO STRESSED THAT HE WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO AGRICULTURE BOTH FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND EXPORT. (THE CONVENTION'S LOUDEST APPLAUSE CAME AT THIS POINT.)

6. THESE OBJECTIVES WOULD BE UNATTAINABLE, FIGUEIREDO CONTINUED, IF BRAZIL WERE TO ADOPT AN ISOLATIONIST STANCE, BLIND TO THE EVIDENCE OF THE "GLOBAL VILLAGE" IN WHICH WE LIVE. BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY WAS TRADITIONALLY GUIDED BY AN ORIENTATION OF FRATERNAL INTERNATIONAL COEXISTENCE. HE SAW BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY PURSUING, WITH FIRMNESS, THE DEMAND FOR A MORE

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P R 121055Z APR 78
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JUST ORDER WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS; THE REQUIREMENT OF RESPECT FOR SELF-DETER-
MINATION IN THE REGION; THE OPENING OF NEW FRONTIERS IN FOREIGN
TRADE; THE PROMOTION, WITH OBJECTIVITY AND REALISM, OF THE NATION'S
INTERESTS IN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLES; AND THE GENEREROUS
COLLABORATION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND
PEACE.

7. COMMENT: THE OUTLINE OF FIGUEIREDO'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
POLICY CONTAINED IN THE SPEECH IS GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH HIS
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ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY REPORTED IN PRESS SPECULATION OVER THE LAST
SEVERAL MONTHS(SEE SEPARATE AIRGRAM). WHAT HAS BEEN OMITTED MAY BE
EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT. THE CANDIDATE SAID NOTHING, IN A DIRECT
WAY, ABOUT RAPID INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OR HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES.

HE OMITS ANY REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO CARRY TO COMPLETION(A NEED HE UNDOUBTEDLY ACCEPTS) THE MASSIVE IMPORT SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS IN BASIC INDUSTRIES, SPEARHEADED BY THE LARGE PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANIES, CHARACTERISTIC OF THE GEISEL PERIOD. THE TONE OF THE ECONOMIC PARAGRAPHS OF THE SPEECH THUS IS ONE OF MODERATION IN THE PURSUIT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE SEARCH FOR EQUILIBRIUM AND BALANCE AMONG COMPETING OBJECTIVES, CONCERN FOR THE COUNTRY'S SOCIAL PROBLEMS (THE REFERENCES TO INCOME DISTRIBUTION, REGIONAL DISPARITIES, EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE, AND THE LONG SECTION ON SOCIAL POLICY), TOGETHER WITH THE REPUDIATION OF STATISM. IN CONTRAST WITH THIS, THERE ARE ECHOES OF A THIRD-WORLDISH STANCE IN THE PASSAGE ON A MORE JUST INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND MONETARY REGIME. INDEED, THE EXPLICIT CRITICISM OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL MONTARY ARRANGEMENTS SEEMS NOVEL; IT IS THE FIRST TIME WE RECALL SEEING IT IN A MAJOR POLITICAL SPEECH IN BRAZIL FOR QUITE A WHILE. OVERALL, HOWEVER,DESPITE THE TWO REFERENCES TO BRAZIL'S EMERGING INTERNATIONAL ROLE, A SIMILAR TONE OF CONCILIATION AND MODERATION PREVAILS IN THE BRIEF SECTION ON BRAZIL'S FOREIGN POLICY.

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